THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Conversion of INS Vikrant into a Maritime Museum

4172. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether INS Vikrant is being converted into a maritime museum; and

(b) if so, the details finalised with the Navy and Maharashtra Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAM RAJU) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Maharashtra had evinced interest in converting 'INS Vikrant' into a maritime museum. Accordingly, it was decided to gift the ship to the State Government for conversion into a museum. However, in April, 2000, the State Government conveyed its inability to implement the scheme. As such, it was decided to dispose of the ship as "scrap" and tenders were invited. However, in July 2000, the State Government of Maharashtra renewed their request for conversion of the ship into a museum. As such, the process initiated for disposal of the ship as "scrap" was kept in abeyance.

The State Government have since informed that the feasibility report and the site have been finalized. The State Government has been requested to shift the ship to an alternate berth and ensure the ship's safety.

The museum project is to be undertaken entirely by the Government of Maharashtra and is likely to take about three years to complete. No funding support by the Navy is envisaged.

Foreign defence personnel's training in defence establishments

4173. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed foreign defence personnel to undergo training in defence establishments in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what security measures are taken to ensure that such trainees have no access to classified documents and other secret premises ?